15th Annual Young Adult Literature Conference

October 24 - 25, 2014

The Q Conference Center
1405 N. 5th Ave.
St. Charles, IL 60174

Conference At-A-Glance

Friday 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm  Welcome Reception, Workshops, and Teacher Presentations
Saturday 8:30 am - 2:30 pm  Featured Book Workshops, Closing Event

About the Conference

Since 2000, the popular Young Adult Literature Conference (YAL) from the Center for College Access and Success at Northeastern Illinois University, has demonstrated how the combination of compelling books and engaging learning strategies provide powerful learning experiences for middle and high school students. Teachers participate in interactive workshops designed around one of the conference books. They leave with teaching strategies they can use immediately in their classrooms. Teachers from our partner schools are encouraged to follow up with our Unit for Books Mini-Grant Program; they can apply for a classroom set of books in exchange for a unit that includes young adult literature and best practice literacy strategies.

Registration/Fees

Registration includes entry to this two day conference, two books, three meals, 6 CPDUs, and an overnight stay in a private room at the Q Conference Center.

Teachers in GEAR UP schools can attend for a $50.00 fee to cover the cost of food.

Teachers from Morton High School District schools should get district approval to attend and arrange for payment of conference fees.

For all others, registration fees are $450.00.

Register at: http://homepages.neiu.edu/~yal

For more information, contact:
Dan Laubacher, 312-563-7134

“Excellent book. Wonderful presenters. I'm so glad I was able to participate.”
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
This is a story about two boys, Aristotle and Dante, who are learning how to live. Through a bond that grows over time, we are privy to the process of discovering authentic self and finding the courage to share it with others. At the onset, Dante and Aristotle seem to have very little in common. As we proceed, we understand the wealth that true friendship provides and the importance of sharing secrets that never seem to surface in everyday conversations. Through the emotionally accessible writing of Benjamin Alire Sáenz, it is clear to see that digging deeper to ask difficult questions is the key to getting to the truth about where we come from, who we are or who we want to be. Discovering the secrets of the universe is no small undertaking, but a mission that bonds us all, regardless of age, ethnic background or sexual orientation. Grade 9 and up.

My Beloved World by Justice Sonia Sotomayor
Sonia Sotomayor has written a memoir that captures her childhood growing up in projects in the Bronx up to her current appointment to Supreme Court Justice. In her early years, she recounts her close relationship with her grandmother, yearly trips to Puerto Rico, life with an alcoholic father and distant mother, and management of child diabetes. With resourceful intelligence and self-reliance, she excels in school and goes on to graduate from Princeton and then Yale Law School. She worked as an assistant district attorney, at a top law firm, as a judge of the U.S. District Court and then in the U.S. Court of Appeals. In 2009 Barack Obama nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. She says, “I’ve spent my whole life learning how to do things that were hard for me.” Grade 9 and up.

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
Commonly called a young adult romance (with young lovers facing cancer), this phenomenal best seller has also been described as “an elegiac comedy.” TFiOS manages to juxtapose gritty details of living with cancer with poignantly hilarious commentary from those in the midst of it. This novel is elegantly plotted, with complex language, and characters so appealingly real that you may think of them as your friends. Millions of teens and adults name this as their favorite book and follow John Green’s blog with dedicated fervor. A few critics complain that the wit of teens Hazel and Augustus is unrealistic, but these are not average kids. Their circumstances and love of reading lead them to casually reference existential questions and great writers, but they also play crazy video games and worry about what to wear. My advice? Go with the flow and fall in love with this book. Its rewards outweigh any faults. Grade 9 and up.

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
In a mix of historical fact and probing fiction, Monk tells the story of two girls growing up side-by-side but with very different life paths in front of them. Fictional Handful is a young slave girl who belongs to a wealthy Charleston family in the early 19th century. Sarah Grimké, who really existed and eventually became an important abolitionist and feminist, is an independent-thinking daughter in the prominent, tradition-bound family. When Handful is given to Sarah as a birthday present, 11-year-old Sarah’s strong feelings against slavery are painfully challenged. The two girls, owner and slave, form a complicated, lifelong connection as each tries to live her life free of the very real bonds of slavery and the no less real restrictions on women. Grade 9 and up.
The 2014-15 YAL Conference Books (continued)

**Neurocomic** by Hana Roš & Matteo Farinella “I like playing around in the lab; it’s like a workshop,” says neuroscientist Dr. Hana Roš. “I think everyone draws as a kid...some people stop. I just kept drawing,” muses neuroscience Ph.D. and illustrator Dr. Matteo Farinella. In joyful collaboration they have created Neurocomic, a book that compels as object first, then as adventure, and finally as a heaping plate of hard science. Between deep blue covers imprinted with gold and silver (leaving your fingertips sparkly) lie comic panels wherein cosmic black ink soaks into creamy white space. Ride along with our hero as he enters the brain through the optic nerve, befriends a granule cell, explores morphology, pharmacology, electrophysiology, plasticity, and synchronicity, battles alongside neurotransmitter super heroes, resists Dr. Pavlov and his conditioning, and walks into the horizon with the girl. Grade 9 and up.

**PAIRED BOOKS:** The Time Machine by H. G. Wells and Voices by Ursula K. Le Guin

**The Time Machine by H. G. Wells.** This classic by Wells is thought to be the first story of time travel ever written. The novella begins when the principal character, known only as Time Traveler, addresses his friends at a dinner party, astonishing them with an unbelievable account of his travels within a future world. The rest of this 1895 tale deals with Time Traveler's journeys as he uses his invention to investigate several time periods until he is unable to return, lost in time to those who knew him when the tale began. This novella is considered one of the Great Books of the English language and is a must read for any college-bound student.

**Voices by Ursula K. Le Guin.** Ansul was once a peaceful town filled with libraries, schools, and temples. But that was long ago, and the conquerors of this coastal city consider reading and writing to be acts punishable by death. Oracle House is the last hiding place for the last few undestroyed books. Seventeen-year-old Merem, a “siege brat” resentful of the invaders who raped her mother and left her hometown in ruins, dreams of one day delivering vengeance. Oracle House is the only place where she feels truly safe. Then Orrec and Gry arrive, spinning tales that begin to erode the boundaries between the conquered and the conquerors, confronting Merem with decisions that change her dreams and enable her to develop a deeper understanding of her mystical birthright. This world will inform your views of our own complex world. Grade 8 and up.

**The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay by Michael Chabon (One Book One Chicago)**

Joe Kavalier and Sam Clay reimagine and redefine the comic book hero and in the process force us to grapple with questions about heroism: what does a hero look like, why do we need heroes, what makes one a hero—these are only some of the questions with which we struggle alongside Joe and Sammy as they create The Escapist, their greatest comic book superhero.

Register at [http://homepages.neiu.edu/~yal](http://homepages.neiu.edu/~yal)

NOTE: there is a slight change to the website address this year.

Questions? Call Dan at (312) 563-7134
**Friday Teacher Unit Presentations**

This session features units and activities created by teachers as a result of the Young Adult Literature Conference and the Units for Books program. You will be assigned to one presentation based on availability from your top 4 choices.

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**Argument and Persona Writing through The Hobbit**

**Presenter:** Lauren Rodriguez and others, Curie High School

Presenting teachers will showcase various lessons highlighting their own adventures into intertextual persona and argument writing. Full description available at a later date.

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**Connecting AP Language and Composition to Latino Culture**

**Presenters:** Kent Frankfother and Amanda Genge, Morton East High School

At Morton East High School more than 400 students (majority Latino) are enrolled in AP Language and Composition. With some support from our friends at NEIU’s Center for College Access and Success, we integrated Latino Studies (literature) with AP Language and Composition and increased student motivation, connections, and applicable knowledge. A standard politics and economics unit was transformed with guest speakers and assemblies, performances (Corridos), and excerpts from Latino novels and memoirs by Reyna Grande, Gaspar de Alba, and Luis Rodriguez, to name a few. The culminating project was an in-school museum exhibit, Latinos in Chicago, toured by the student body and parents. The project was a winner for all concerned!

**Kent Frankfother** and **Amanda Genge** have three-plus decades of teaching under their belts at J. Sterling Morton East High School (District 201) in Cicero, Illinois. For almost one of those decades, they have been teaching in the AP program. Additionally, between the two of them, they have probably taught every English class offered at the school.

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**Freshman Connections Students Making a Difference**

**Presenters:** Adis Suljic, Raby High School and Jackie Figliulo, Roosevelt High School

Last summer, Freshman Connections students wrote letters, circulated petitions, performed raps, created Power Points and videos, painted murals, raised money, and more—all in support of issues they had identified and researched. Along the way, they learned important literacy skills. The Freshman Connections Making a Difference curriculum taps into students’ idealism and energy to develop awareness of their own power to effect positive change in the world. Through Inquiry and Design, students learn to question, investigate, and take action. The presenters, all FC teachers from last summer, will introduce the Making a Difference curriculum and share examples of their students’ work.

**Adis Suljic** has taught U.S. History at Al Raby High School for three years; last summer was his first with GEAR UP Freshman Connection. He has a deep passion for current affairs, politics, and educational policy. He utilizes the U.S. History curriculum to help students become well-informed and engaged citizens and makes a conscious effort to develop student literacy skills. He is excited to share his knowledge and love of learning with students, but also aims to explore the knowledge that students themselves bring to the classroom. **Jackie Figliulo** teaches English and social studies at Roosevelt High School in Chicago's Albany Park community, and has taught in CPS for 5 years. Figliulo spent the last two summers teaching Freshmen Connection and truly enjoyed working on researched service learning projects and building lasting relationships with students as they began their high school careers. As this year’s Freshmen Connection class said, "Ms. Figliulo is obsessed with teaching" and loves working with GEAR UP to support student success.
Friday Teacher Unit Presentations (continued)

How and Who: How the Way a Speaker Speaks, and Who That Speaker Is, Influence Our Understanding of a Text
Presenter: Tina Peano, Roosevelt High School
Through analysis of sentence types alone, we will learn how to analyze characters and tone via *The Crucible*. Then, in comparing two excerpts from *A Clockwork Orange*, we will explore aspects of point of view that you may never have touched on before with your students. The strategies in this workshop could be used in any class where you want to push your students further in the depth of their analysis, and where they can begin to learn crucial pre-AP skills. Join me to consider aspects of a text your students have never really thought about, but that would deeply enrich their appreciation of a piece of literature. Let's go deep-diving!

Tina Peano has taught at a number of schools, including Lindblom Math and Science Academy, and Roosevelt High School. She has worked as a consultant for National-Louis University, The Chicago Metro History Fair, and the Chicago Teacher Center. She has two girls, a husband, four and a half cats, and must replace her vacuum cleaner yearly.

I have a crush...on a book! Teaching students to fall in love with reading
Presenter: Susan Yates, Foreman High School
In a world of cell phones, iPads, and Facebook, how do we encourage students to see the value in reading a good old fashion book? This workshop shares an independent reading unit designed to invite students to build lasting relationships with books. Through an investigation of the genres, and pondering the essential questions: why we read what we read? And what do humans get from reading and writing our own stories? Students’ reading stamina grows and the relationship with their first love of a book begins.

Susan Yates has been an English teacher at Foreman High School for 10 years. With only a semester keeping her from a MA in Literacy Education, she strives to continue to look for new and exciting ways to engage the future of America. A lover of gardening, she lives with two cats, Ayden and a husband.

Through the Eyes of a Survivor - Interacting with a Primary Text
Presenters: Allison Morales and Noe Castro, Roosevelt High School
I Still See her Haunting Eyes: The Holocaust and a Hidden Child Named Aaron is the memoir of Holocaust survivor, Aaron Elster. For students, non-fiction texts may not always be the most accessible, exciting or engaging reading. They may lose focus, overlook important facts, or not retain enough information to summarize or recall the narrative. Meaningful interactions with texts are necessary in order to make the subject matter, the strategies useful, and the content worthwhile. Only in this way can students expand their views of the world and learn from the experiences of others. Lack of funds has required us to purchase class sets of novels (often sets are shared among multiple classes), making annotating the text a difficult, daunting task. With the use of a guided annotation sheet to help focus reading and to help students relate and connect to a non-fiction text, class reading and independent readings become richer and the content becomes impactful.
Allison Morales was born and raised in Chicago. She attended CPS schools K-12, and received her bachelor’s degree at Northeastern Illinois University. She recently earned her Master’s degree at DePaul University and now teaches Reading 1 and Yearbook at Roosevelt High School. Allison has been teaching at Roosevelt High School for the past 5 years. She enjoys reading in her spare time and she can’t get enough bacon in her life. Noe Castro came to Chicago from Guadalajara, Jalisco and has since grown up in Humboldt Park. A product of CPS, he went on to study at DePaul University and has been teaching English at Roosevelt High School for three years. His favorite book to this day is The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao. He buys books almost impulsively and he is still waiting for a call back on a teaching position at Professor Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters.

Finding the Author’s Voice: A Visual Investigation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Screen

Presenters: Jordan Wankoff, Foreman High School and Andy David, NEIU’s Center for College Access and Success

Students’ understanding of a narrative is enhanced by identifying the choices an author or filmmaker makes. In this unit on *To Kill a Mockingbird*, students extended their study to include the medium of film to develop their capacity for visual comprehension. They analyzed the film version to consider questions: Why did the filmmaker choose a particular shot? How was it composed? What was left in and what was left out? How does it move the story forward? Finally, students applied what they learned by creating storyboards for scenes from the screenplay. Participants in this workshop will explore some of the process and see examples of student work.

Andy David has been a specialist in educational media applications for 30 years. He was one of the first in Chicago to write and present on educational applications of computers, and is currently integrating his filmmaking skills into the students’ classroom experience in a variety of ways, from image analysis to creative film production. He is also exploring the Graphic novel as a visual organizer of content. Jordan Wankoff teaches English and ESL at Foreman High School in Chicago. He has presented at the CARA reading conference and is currently pursuing a reading endorsement at Northeastern Illinois University. At Foreman, he has been a team leader and a mentor teacher to several student teachers. He spends his free time watching his seven-year-old son play baseball, hockey, and soccer.

Friday Concurrent Workshops

You will be assigned to one Friday workshop based on availability from your top 4 choices.

Engaging Reluctant Readers through the Power of Choice

Presenters: Sheree Mayfield, GEAR UP College & Career Coach; Dr. Millicent Watkins Conley, Reading Specialist at Douglass High School, and Evan Georgi, Executive Director of Reading is Fundamental

Looking for some new ideas for getting your students turned on to reading? Need more cool books for your classroom library? Find out how to use the power of choice to hook your students on books and learn to love reading. Learn about Reading is Fundamental and organizations that will partner with you to make reading an exciting, energizing activity in your classroom and in your school community—and help you get some books! Be sure not to miss our Mini-Readathon!
**Friday Concurrent Workshops (continued)**

**Sheree Mayfield**, GEAR UP College & Career Coach at Bogan and Hancock, holds a Master of Public Administration from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Her experience includes working with Reading is Fundamental in Chicago as the Director of Programs. Ms. Mayfield develops and maintains collaborative partnerships with community organizations and universities in order to help Chicago’s most disadvantaged children learn the love of reading. **Dr. Millicent Watkins Conley** has worked as a professor, instructor, consultant, and most recently as the lead literacy teacher and reading specialist for Douglass High School and O’Keeffe Elementary. Wherever Dr. Conley's career has taken her, she has worked to foster the importance of literacy among teachers and youth using her knowledge to help close the literacy gap in education. **Evan Georgi**, Executive Director of Reading is Fundamental, holds a master's degree in Parenting Education and Support from DePaul University. Through collaboration with community leaders, CPS administrators and parent volunteers, Ms. Georgi has reshaped the Books for Ownership program, encasing an entire community (Englewood and West Englewood) in literacy enrichment, and providing engaging and culturally relevant books to children in low-income schools.

**HOMAGO: hanging out, messing around and geeking out with YOUmedia**

**Presenter**: **Julie Koslowsky**, YOUmedia Outreach Coordinator, Harold Washington Library

YOUmedia is a library and studio space at Chicago Public Library designed specifically for teens. Your students can hang out, mess around, and geek out on projects to create their own Music, Video, 2D & 3D Design, Photos and Podcasts with lots of help from skilled mentors. And it’s all free! Come learn about ways to connect your students with programs at YOUmedia and how you can use YOUmedia as an extension of your classroom. Come prepared to do your own hanging out, messing around and geeking out. (There will be a vinyl cutter!)

**Julie Koslowsky** serves as the YOUmedia Outreach Coordinator for the Harold Washington Library Center where she coordinates tours, outreach visits, school groups and more for YOUmedia at Chicago Public Library. As YOUmedia's Outreach Coordinator, Julie is focused on making connections and collaborating with diverse communities throughout the Chicago area (and beyond!) so that even more teens can experience the amazing programming that YOUmedia has to offer.

**Integrating Africa into the Curriculum**

**Presenter**: **Amanda Brode**, Curie High School

Our students—and the rest of us!—are bombarded constantly by negative stereotypes about Africa in the media, but most of us know very little about the real Africa. Many teachers want to be able to integrate Africa into their curriculums but are intimidated about exactly how to do that. NEIU’s intensive Africa Summer Institute for Teachers offers a wealth of information about history, culture, religion, and politics of the 54 internationally recognized countries that make up the African continent as well as support for developing related curriculum. Come learn something new about the world’s second-largest and second-most-populous continent, get a taste of what the Institute offers, and share ideas for teaching about Africa in their courses.

**Amanda Brode** has taught at Curie Metro High School for the last 10 years. She has two Masters, in Educational Policy Studies and in Special Education, and hopes to get a PhD. She is passionate about Africa and actively teaches about it in her Geography and World Studies courses. As part of the Africa Summer Institute she developed a unit on the influence of Islam in northern Africa, which she will be glad to share.
Friday Concurrent Workshops (continued)

**MASTERing the Art of Music Integration in the English Language Arts Classroom**
**Presenter: Dr. Tim Duggan, Northeastern Illinois University**
MASTER the art of music integration to improve reading and enliven your classroom discussions around young adult literature. This participatory workshop will demonstrate how teachers can use six strategies to help students generate original musical responses to classroom texts. The acronym MASTER (mnemonics, adaptations, settings, themes, explorations, and recital) lays a blueprint for focused, productive, and standards-based integration of music. Teachers need not have musical background or skill to embrace these methods.

Tim Duggan is an associate professor at NEIU, where he teaches courses in English education and coordinates a partnership between NEIU and Amundsen High School. Dr. Duggan also works with CCAS on an NCLB-ITQ professional development program in J.S. Morton District 201 and regularly presents teacher workshops for the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. He is the author of several books for teachers and has recorded his adaptations of Shakespeare sonnets and other musical works.

**Science off the Page: Incorporating Engaging Science Experiences into Your Literacy Pedagogical Practices**
**Presenter: Dr. Stephanie Levi, NEIU’s Center for College Access and Success**
Literacy is a wonderful vehicle for studying science, as the stories behind great discoveries come alive. Science invites hands-on learning and doing (rather than passive listening), employing inquiry-based and experiential approaches. This workshop will focus on the links between literacy and science teaching, strategies for meeting both the NGSS and Common Core Language Arts standards, and specific curricula for implementing these ideas. You’ll live with real strategies you can take back to the classroom, and curricular ideas you can employ the school day after the conference.

Stephanie Levi received her Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology at the University of Chicago and has centered her career at the nexus of science, outreach, education and communication, focusing on curriculum development, science outreach, assessment evaluation, and improving student recruitment, retention and success in STEM fields. Her impact has led to programmatic success and student achievement at a variety of venues, including universities, non-profit organizations, and outreach initiatives.

**Storytellers Pathways: A Game-Based Taste of Careers in Writing**
**Presenters: Jennifer Steele, YO Umedia Partnerships Coordinator and Dr. Sybil Madison-Boyd, Systems Change Consultant**
Storytellers Pathways is a game-based series of online and real world activities for youth who want to learn more about careers in writing. Taking on challenges as fiction writers, poets, playwrights, creative nonfiction authors, and journalists, and working with mentors, youth earn digital badges; as they collect badges, they unlock special opportunities such as shadowing writers, sitting in on editorial sessions, and participating in public performances. In this session, you’ll tour the pathways, meet the designers, and pick the brains of CPS teachers who served as advisors to the designers by sharing ideas for connecting the pathways to classroom curriculum and the CCSS.
Jennifer Steele is a poet, writer, and educator. Currently, she serves as the YOUmedia Partnerships Coordinator for the Chicago Public Library where she develops and manages partnership relationships and programs for the YOUmedia program, a 21st Century teen-centered media and making space for middle school and high school teens. Dr. Sybil Madison-Boyd is a systems change coach/consultant with 20 years of experience enabling institutions to achieve positive outcomes for under-resourced youth and families. A clinical and community psychologist by training, Sybil has leveraged her academic training to facilitate the translation of research into effective practice in urban schools and communities.

Units for Books Mini-Grant: How to Get (Free) Books for your Classroom!
Please note: This workshop is for teachers from GEAR UP schools only.
**Presenters:** Susan Garr, Germania Solorzano, Chris Johnson
Do you want to use more young adult books in your teaching? Do you need more books (who doesn’t?) for your students? Were you inspired by the teachers who presented their units tonight? Would you like some support writing a unit that includes young adult literature? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, come to this session! We will explain the GEAR UP Units for Books Mini-Grant program so that you can write a unit and earn a class set of books. It’s not as hard as you might think!
Susan, Germania, and Chris are all part of the Center for College Access and Success/GEAR UP Professional Development team and we are eager to help you get more great young adult books into your life and your students’! Please see Saturday Workshops for presenter bio information.

Web 2.0 Tools to Enhance Your Students’ Creativity
**Presenter:** Mary Burke, Morton Freshman Center, Librarian
Explore a variety of Web 2.0 content creation tools to support and enhance your literature-based units. As the library media specialist at the Morton Freshman Center, I collaborate with teachers to create meaningful projects that tap into students’ creativity and demonstrate learning. Tech-hesitant or tech-confident, discover a new creation tool to incorporate this year such as Glogster, Padlet, Photo Story 3, VoiceThread, Animoto, Wordle, Voki, Popplet, animation tools, comics generators, and timeline generators. The session will consist of a brief overview of each tool, a classroom application, plus access to online resources and tutorials.

What’s Hot in Young Adult Literature?
**Presenter:** Kimberly Luthin, Barnes and Noble
Want to know the books kids are eager to read—even willing to part with money to own? Our conference bookseller shares the titles that will make terrific additions to your classroom library.
Kimberly Luthin is Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble in Geneva. She provides a wide variety of services including fundraising for schools, storybook character visits, author events and book sale support for conferences. Kimberly has an M.S. in Art Education, an M.A. in Art History and an MFA in Visual Communication from Northern Illinois University.
Saturday Workshop Descriptions

You will be assigned to two (2) YAL book workshops based on availability from your top 5 choices.

The Secrets of the Universe Explained: Uncovering Authentic Self Through Story (Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe)

Grade 9 and up. **Jeremy Babcock, Presenter**

Drawing on themes that emerge from the book, workshop participants are invited to explore ways to ask meaningful questions and embrace the stories that emerge from the answers. Utilizing improvisational theatre and cooperative learning activities to guide the group, we will focus on: discovering and sharing personal narratives, developing creative ways to process experiences with students, creating classroom community where all are invited to participate, and using techniques for helping students to find their voice and the courage to share out. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of the text and tangible ways to inspire students to show and share personal narratives.

**Jeremy Babcock** believes in the importance of play and incorporates this belief into his work as an Experiential Learning Specialist with NEIU’s Center for College Access and Success (formerly CTC), and as a Teaching Artist with The Old Town School of Folk Music. In the evening and weekend hours, Jeremy plays music for kids of all ages with The Dreamtree Shakers, (www.dreamtreeshakers.com).

From the Bronx to the Bench in My Beloved World by Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Grade 9 and up. **Gina Gamboa, Melanie Del Real and Cynthia Zucker, Presenters**

In this engagingly plain-spoken memoir, Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor shares aspects of her life that will touch many of our students, from embracing her ethnic Puerto Rican culture to learning to assert herself at Princeton. She survives serious lifelong diabetes, the complications of a loving but dysfunctional family, and childhood poverty, ultimately working her way to the Supreme Court. This workshop will examine the genre of memoir and how to get students to write stories from their own lives. Additional materials may address the use of the CCSS literacy framework in studying the Supreme Court and some recent cases, role playing in a mock trial, and tools for studying the history of Latino immigrants to the United States.

**Gina Gamboa** is the Director of Bilingual-Bicultural Programs at NEIU’s Center for College Access and Success. **Melanie Del Real**, M.S.W. is currently the Student Services Coordinator for High School programs in the Cicero/Berwyn community. She uses a strengths-based approach when working with families and youth; and strongly believes that supporting students' social-emotional needs will increase their capacity for academic learning in the classroom and beyond. **Cynthia Zucker** is currently a Bilingual/ESL Specialist at the Center for College Access and Success/NEIU. She was a bilingual teacher and administrator in the Chicago Public Schools for more than 25 years, and helps to coordinate Bilingual/ESL endorsement cohorts for CPS teachers.
The Power of Novels to Inspire Lifelong Reading: The Fault in Our Stars
Grade 9 and up. Lynette Emmons and Mary Massie, Presenters
Why has this novel been a worldwide bestseller for two years and counting? Here is your chance to find out! A plot summary cannot do justice to the compelling characters and experiences author John Green gives us through Hazel and Gus, two teens determined not to let cancer define them. Readers gravitate to these characters for the way they live with humor, quirkiness, and authenticity, despite the unfairness of their circumstances. Green’s skillful writing is worthy of study, especially paired with a traditional classic or nonfiction text, as this workshop will demonstrate using action strategies and brief close readings. More than anything else, though, this is a book teens and adults can take to heart and find personally inspiring. Tears are likely, but laughter and delight are certain rewards for reading this new YA classic.

Mary Massie, Ph.D. in Literacy and MFA in Acting/Dramatic Criticism, has been a Senior Literacy Specialist for the Center for College Access and Success (formerly CTC) at Northeastern Illinois University since 1999. Mary currently directs a grant to strengthen literacy across the curriculum in Cicero-Berwyn High School District 201. She has conducted professional development programs and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in literacy in Chicago for more than 20 years.

Lynette Emmons began her teaching career at Nettelhorst School in Chicago in 1988. She has been the Director of the Center for City Schools in the Urban Institute at National-Louis University for several years. This non-profit organization focuses their efforts on the Chicago GEAR UP project.

What does it take to fly? Building context and deepening understanding about the struggle for freedom in The Invention of Wings
Grade 9 and up. Susan Garr and Chris Johnson, Presenters
Historical fiction introduces students to the interpretive nature of history as well as the complexity of issues in a way textbooks cannot. In this workshop, participants will practice close reading, peruse primary sources, analyze point of view, and partake in conversations and collaborations that uncover the multiple voices involved in the struggle for racial and gender justice during the early 19th century. Interactive, get-up-on-your-feet, literacy and “think-like-an-historian” activities will be modeled and practiced.

Literacy Specialist and Coach, Susan A. Garr earned an MA in Education from DePaul University. She taught high school English and Film Studies for 10 years prior to joining the professional development staff at CCAS/NEIU in 2000. As a GEAR UP PD Specialist, she has co-planned a variety of workshops to inspire teachers to teach with a focus on building students’ metacognitive reading, writing and thinking skills. Her best work involves collaborating with teachers to design standards-based-inquiry-units. Being an educator for over 25 years, she is still awed by the talent, time and creative force our GEAR UP Network teachers bring to their students. Chris Johnson is the Professional Development Manager at the Center for College Access and Success (formerly CTC) and has worked with the GEAR UP program and the YAL Conference for more than 10 years. She believes that knowing our country’s soul-searing history of slavery and its legacy as well as the astounding courage of those who stood up against it is the first step towards inventing our own wings of freedom.
Neurocomic: The Power of Metaphor (and symbol, personification, analogy, story, synecdoche, figures of speech, and gesture)
Grade 9 and up. Polly Mills and Germania Solórzano, Presenters
Your students can take on challenging text, comprehending and communicating big ideas using the same techniques as the authors of Neurocomic. In this workshop, we will practice techniques of metaphor, seeing in the mind, gestural seeing, point of view (including vantage point and distance), improvisation, movement, and oral telling as approaches toward comprehension. We’ll present our understanding and interpretation as skits, songs, drawings, or sculpture, culminating in writing.
Polly Mills is an award-winning writer with nearly 30 years’ experience teaching writing. Through collaborations with teachers, co-founding the Teachers as Writers program, and co-authoring the Essays that Open Doors curricula and Tandem Teaching texts and the online Storytelling Pathways accessible at https://chicagocityoflearning.org, Polly explores experiential approaches to teach writing. She teaches Fiction Writing at Columbia College Chicago and is a Professional Development Specialist at the Center for College Access and Success (formerly CTC). She is certified as Master Candidate in the Story Workshop™ approach to the teaching of writing and holds an M.A. in Creative Writing and Teaching of Writing from Columbia College Chicago. Germania Solórzano is an educator with over 20 years of experience teaching at the secondary and post-secondary levels. She has an MA in Education from St. Xavier University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia College Chicago, where she is also an adjunct professor in the Fiction Writing Department. She believes in the empowerment of students through the discovery and development of their voices, their talents and ability to articulate their thoughts effectively.

Exploring Other Worlds and Times: Using Science Fiction to Address the Common Core State Standards (PAIRED BOOKS: The Time Machine by H. G. Wells and Voices by Ursula K. Le Guin)
Grade 8 and up. Beverly Rowls, Presenter
Let’s be honest. Too many students entering high school are not ready for high school level reading material. In this workshop we will examine how to use Lexile Levels, identify and teach academic vocabulary and integrate science fiction into any content subject. Teachers will receive a variety of tools to assist them in teaching more complex text. The diversity of science fiction makes it the perfect medium for meeting the needs of everything students will need to learn as they prepare for life.
Beverly Rowls has two joys in life: reading and learning. After receiving her M.S. Ed. in Adult Education she continued with doctoral work in reading and curriculum and instruction; she is ABD in both. Beverly has provided professional development support for literacy instruction to Chicago and Illinois area teachers for over fifteen years. Science fiction has been a passion since she was twelve. Sharing this genre with today’s youth is this year’s the focal point.
We Could Be Heroes: Exploring One Book One Chicago 2014-
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay
Grade 9 and up.  Molly Kelly and Kat Tigges, Presenters
If you were a superhero, what would your power be? Join Chicago Public Library’s Teen Services Department as we present the next One Book One Chicago title (to be announced) and its central theme: heroes. We’ll explore the hidden origins of popular superheroes like Superman and the X-Men, as well as the men and women who created them. Next, we’ll dive into this year’s One Book One Chicago selection and help you create hands-on activities for your classroom with attention to Common Core standards and unit development in various disciplines. Finally, you’ll have the chance to discover One Book One Chicago events and resources your students can use at citywide YOUmedia locations, featuring a special vinyl cutter demonstration.

Kat Tigges received a Master of Arts in Children’s Literature from Kansas State University and a Master of Library and Information Science from Dominican University. She has worked in libraries and educational institutions since 2002, specializing in Teen Services since 2012. She is an editor for the graphic novel review site No Flying No Tights. Molly Kelly assists in planning programs, events and professional development to directly support teens throughout the city. As Chicago Public Library’s website Teen Editor she enjoys highlighting resources and upcoming events for teens. She received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from Dominican University and earned a Bachelor’s degree in English and Journalism. Craft workshops and lifelong learning are two of her favorite things.

Register at http://homepages.neiu.edu/~yal

NOTE: there is a slight change to the website address this year. When you register, you will indicate your top five preferences for workshops. Depending on availability, we will place you in two of these workshops. Participants are encouraged to register on-line by October 1st to get the workshops they prefer. If registration is received after October 1st, conference participation cannot be guaranteed. Register at http://homepages.neiu.edu/~yal. Staff at non-partnership schools may attend for $450 per person. Payment in full is required by October 20th.

Once we receive your payment, you will receive an e-mail confirmation, then we will send the books for your two workshops. Participants who register and pay the conference fee by October 1st will receive books at their schools. For registrations after 10/1 you may need to pick up books at Center for College Access and Success (770 N. Halsted; enter on Chicago Ave.). We strongly recommend that you read your workshop books before the conference to get the most out of your conference experience.

Questions? Call Dan at (312) 563-7134